

Application No. 09/998,979
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7, 14-17, 19-21, and 23-26, 28-62 are pending in the present application. Claims 86-126 have been withdrawn from consideration in compliance with a previous election requirement. Claims 5-6, 8-13, 18, 22, 27, 63-85 have been canceled. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the application by the foregoing amendments.

Entry of Rule 116 Response

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-4, and 15-22 are pending in this application. **Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment After Final be entered in accordance with 37 CFR §1.116 and MPEP 714.13** since: (1) no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment; (2) the Amendment resolves all issues raised by the Examiner in the Final Office Action; (3) the subject matter of the Amendment already has been included in the Examiner's search and therefore does not require the Examiner to perform further searching; (4) the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal; and (5) the Amendment does not result in a net addition of claims to the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-4, 7, 14-17, 19-21, 23-26, 28-62 are allowable. The Examiner has continued to reject claims 9-11 and 27. Although Applicants disagree with the reasons for the Examiner's rejection of these claims, claims 9-11 and 27 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested. Accordingly, all presently pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome, and that the application, including claims 1-4, 7, 14-17, 19-21, 23-27, 28-62, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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